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Subject: EPA Nomination

Dear Colleagues

As many of you know, President Trump nominated me last summer to be the Assistant Administrator for the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention in the US EPA. The nomination was quite exciting, but also humbling. I accepted and joined EPA as a senior advisor to the Administrator while waiting for US Senate confirmation. The ensuing months of web-based stories about my work at the nonprofit 501c3 Toxicology Excellence for Risk Assessment (TERA) and the University of Cincinnati were surprising. Seldom mentioned was TERA's balance of work between industry and government (1/3 industry, 2/3 government, see www.tera.org/funding), or

multiple sector collaborations such as Beyond Science and Decisions (<http://med.uc.edu/eh/centers/rsc/risk-resources/dose-response-framework>), or TERA's extensive peer review program (<http://tera.org/Peer/MeetingReports/index.html>), or TERA's publicly available databases, such as the International Toxicity Estimates for Risk (<https://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov/newtoxnet/iter.htm>). Moreover, selected projects were extensively mischaracterized, responses to which can now be viewed at <http://www.tera.org/TERAcollaborativework%2012.8.17.pdf>.

In order to avoid unnecessarily politicizing the important environmental protection goals of Administrator Pruitt, I asked President Trump last month to withdraw my name for consideration of this EPA position. The office is currently being lead under the capable hands of Charlotte Bertrand, Nancy Beck and Louise Wise.

I sincerely and deeply appreciate all the support from many of you during this confirmation process. I also look forward to continue working with you to protect both human health and the ecosystem from toxic levels of chemical exposures.

Cheers!

Michael...

...L. Dourson, Ph.D., DABT, FATS, FSRA

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---Those who have the privilege to know, have the duty to act. Albert Einstein